Full report on page 18.

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WASHINGTON, D. C., MONDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1918-TWENTY-TWO PAGES.

e **Evening**

TWO CENTS.

ANSWER OF PRESIDENT TO TEUTON PEACE PLEA IS DUE IN FEW HOURS

CONGRESS MAY BE ASKED TO GATHER TO HEAR DECISION

Reply Being Drafted Following Conference With Cabinet Officers and Col. House.

ARMISTICE PROPOSAL IS RECEIVED FROM TURKEY

The official text of the German note replying to President Wilson's interrogations was handed to the Secretary of State this morning by Fred Swiss legation. It was found to con- ALL OPPOSE ARMISTICE ed yesterday

The President at 10 o'clock sum moned Secretary Lansing and Secretary of War Baker to his study in the white House for a conference, in which Col. E. M. House also participated. Secretary Baker is just back from the battle fronts of France, Belgium and Italy and from meetings with the premiers of the allied countries and the high commanders of all

allied forces. President Wilson had discussed the unofficial note fully with Col. House, who came down from New York on the train with him last night, and also with Secretary Lansing, before this morning's conference.

Confer for Nearly Two Hours. Secretary Daniels joined the White conference. The President and his advisers were together for nearly

two hours, then the cabinet officers and Col. House walked over to the State, War and Navy building, leav-ing the President alone in his study, where nearly all of his notes and utterances have been drafted.

Lansing had read the document and found it did not differ from the wire-

Allies Acting in Accord.

Counselor Polk of the State Departin the absence of Lord Reading, and other officials of the embassy. Counselor Polk's visit was considered to be significantly connected with

the granting of an armistice until complete guarantees of both a military and naval nature come from Germany.
This development, reported in Associated Press dispatches from Lon-don probably has some relation to the announcement Saturday that Great Britain, France and Italy were

agreeing upon a common line of Turkey's Peace Plea Received.

Turkey's long-delayed note asking, like Germany and Austria, that President Wilson take in hand the restoration of peace was received today at the State Department.

The only official intimation that came in the early hours regarding the probable course of the President was probable course of the President was that he is sure to act quickly and positively. Everywhere in Washington, however, the confident belief prevailed that whatever might be the form of that action it would not contemplate a cessation of hostilities nor negotiations for peace with the German government except under conditions arounting to propositions.

onditions amounting to unconditional night the government asked the American people to suspend judg-ment upon the German note until the President could consider it. If the epinion of the man in the street is reflected by editorial comment coming from every corner of the country, the people already have made up their minds that there should be no temperizing with an enemy whose word is

orth only what the victorious allied Quick Decision Probable.

It is assumed that since Saturday night at least informal exchanges have taken place between Washington and the capitals of the co-belligerents. Informed of the views of the allied premiers, the President may determine before the day is over whether his reply to the German rerucet that he propose an armistice and peace negotiations shall be a refusal to make any such proposal at the instance of the present German government, or a renewed statement of the conditions under which peace

ust be restored. was suggested that the President might ask for a joint session of the Jouse and Senate to communicate his decision and the reasons for it to Conmothing short of unconditional surren

gress, the country and the world.
Discussion of Germany's peace reply
in the Senate today was begun by Senator New of Indiana, who declared elemands of the people.

LUDENDORFF IN RAGE

GENEVA, Sunday, October 13.— cause we have dealt with them already and have seen them deal with other and, above all, the chief of the most governments that were parties to this brilliant and best organized army.

"In 1888 the emperor said he would be supported by the chief of the most price of the cording to a report from Munich. The arest. general's ire was aroused when he resulted in bringing out the fact that the entente would demand an evacuation of occupied territory before the question of an armistice could even

esignation was accepted.

KAISER NOT TO QUIT, OFFICIALLY ANNOUNCED

BERN, Switzerland, October 14 .-The Wolff News Agency of Berlin today issued an official denial of the eport which had become current in Germany that Emperor William in-

Advance Publicity for Note Fails to Arouse Pacifist Sentiment in U. S.

ject in giving publicity to the peace note in advance of presentation of the official text was to create a possible background of sympathy in the und 485 deaths registered. The rec United States for its favorable receptord by days is as follows: resulted. It is thought Germany may have counted upon arousing the pacifist sentiment in the United States to pave the way for favorable consideration of the German reiteration of appeal for an armistice.

The lapse of twenty-four hours since publication by the press of this country of Germany's note has sufficed to develop the overwhelming demand from every section of the land for refusal of an armistice and insistence upon unconditional surrender before terms of final peace shall be considered for negotiation. The public mind is shown to be prac-

tically unanimous in viewing the pro-Department shortly after the Department shortly after the ditter and delivered the ditter and thoroughly alive posal of Germany with suspicion, with

newspapers, reflecting public sentiment in widely separated communities, show of nurses required now. that the American people are thinking ment was at the British embassy in as a unit and concur in the estimate the forenoon in consultation with of the insincerity of the German plea Colville Barlay, counselor and charge and the realization of the danger to the interests of humanity now and for the future in yielding to it. The views of prominent statesmen in Congress coincide with this widespread public When official Washington, and lay-

men as well, took up the burden of the day's responsibilities this morning one thought was dominant in expression everywhede: That President Wilson would find it advisable to take action before the suppose down if nor son would find it advisable to take action before the sun goes down, if possible, to make clear the attitude of this government, and the general hope was that this attitude would be one of absolute insistence upon no cessation of warfare until the central powers agree to unconditional surrender. It was felt that the country is at high tension over the situation; that this militates against the liberty lear this militates against the liberty loan drive, and if allowed to continue long would tend to demoralize many con-ditions having a bearing upon the successful prosecution of the war,

Prompt Decision Expected.

The suggestion was made early in The suggestion was made early in the day in official quarters that President Wilson is quite well aware of this state of affairs, and thoroughly alive to all the considerations which appeal to the official and lay mind. The belief was fostered that the President will announce a decision promptly. In the meantime there came an official request that the public should withhold conjecture. The form of this intimation, as sent out by the Associated Press, was as follows:

"The government asks the American people to withhold their judgment on Germany's note until President Wil-

Germany's note until President Wilson has received the official communi-cation and has had time to consider it." This was not construed as a request to newspapers to refrain from editorial comment, however,

editorial comment, however.
Unofficial comment upon the status of affairs presented by the sending of the note dealt, as one feature, with this consideration: Did Germany, in appearing to comply with the President's pre-announced terms of peace, place this government in the attitude of assuming responsibility for continuing the war if the German plea was rejected?

Question Answered in Negative.

The answer to that question was in the negative. It was pointed out that the German note still failed to satisfy the Pesident's inquiry through Secre-tary Lansing, of Prince Maximilian as to the identity and responsibility of the German government which spoke in the note published yesterday. The President made it plain that he con-sidered it vital to all future moves to

demands of the people.

In power in German affairs.

President Wilson's estimate of those constituted authorities was expressed

"We

44 DEATHS IN D. C. FROM INFLUENZA REPORTED AT NOON

676 New Cases Were Recorded Today, as Against 1,312 Yesterday.

12,847 CASES WITH 485 DEATHS DURING OCTOBER

Daily Record for First Fourteen Days of the Month-Shortage in Physicians' Report Cards.

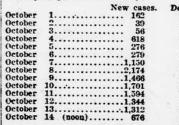
Influenza continued to reap a heavy death toll in the District today, fortyfour deaths being recorded up to noon since 9 o'clock last night.

New cases reported, however, show-

ed a big decline. As compared with 1,312 cases registered yesterday, only 676 were recorded up to noon today. This may not indicate a slowing up in the progress of the epidemic, inasmuch as there has been a shortage of cards on which the disease is reported by physicians. It is possible that some physicians are out of the cards and have delayed making re-

ports of cases under their care. 12,847 Cases; 485 Deaths.

The influenza record from and including October 1, up to noon today, shows a total of 12,847 cases reported



Public Health Service Is Rushing the Preliminaries for Influenza Hospital.

The public health service today rushed plans for equipping an influenza hospital with 500 beds in the building at 19th street and Virginia avenue, vacated last week by the oppointed time and delivered the faith of the offer and thoroughly alive to the advantages which would accrue to the advantages which would accrue to Germany by yielding to an armistice with consequent imperiling of the aims of the Bouse as soon as Secretary of the allies. People Thinking as a Unit.

Editorial expressions in the leading ments and elsewhere

This is only about half the number Effort to Obtain Nurses.

Commissioner Brownlow yesterday appealed to the heads of government departments and business establish-ments that they take a census of their employes this morning for the pur-pose of recruiting nurses and hospital help. It was expected the appeal would result in services being volunteered

Beds have been ordered for the new hospital and the institution probably

mandeered Washington's, coffin supply. This action was taken to prevent coffins being shipped out of the District. The demand for caskets in Alexandria and other nearby points outside the District is in excess of the supply, and effort has been made to obtain them in Washington.

Appeal from the outside is being made to Washington for nurses, but the authorities are taking steps to keep in the District all those qualified and willing to render service of this and willing to render service of this character. Even this does not promise that the local situation will be ade-

Gauze Masks for Public Considered Held in abeyance by the Commis-Held in abeyance by the Commissioners today were the proposals looking toward an order for the wearing of gauze masks by the entire population and the closing of poolrooms and other places of business. It appeared probable that the wearing of masks would not be made mandatory, especially if the situation does not become worse. The Commissioners are not disposed to close poolrooms unless such action should appear more required than at present. To take this step would open the To take this step would open the question of closing cigar stores and similar business establishments.

KAISER IS URGED TO QUIT THRONE

each day on the person of the em- could stand.

NEARLY 1,000 DEAD IN FOREST FIRES

Twenty-One Towns Are Destroyed, With Property Damage in Millions.

HOMELESS **THOUSANDS**

DULUTH, Minn., October 14 .-Twenty-one towns were destroyed, with a known death list of 298, by the fire which swept northeastern Minnesota Saturday and Sunday. The injured in Duluth hospitals total 106. The towns totally or partially de-strayed are tragget. Mosse Lake, Kettle Rives, Libert, Adolph. Munger, Flyd Corners, Harney, Bornum, Mathews, Atkinson, Cili-

ton, French River, Carleton, Pike

Lake, Brockston, Brevator and DILLITH Minn. October 14.-4 large section of northeastern Minne sota—three days ago a busy and pros perous business and farming country hundreds of bodies of men, women and children, many of them burned beyond recognition, strewn about the countryside, as the result of the disastrous forest fires which swept this territory Saturday and Sunday. Latest estimates place the death list at close to 1,000, although no official figures were available early

today. Hundreds of persons are more will be ready to receive patients in or less seriously burned, thousands two or three days.

Health Officer Fowler today commandeered Washington's, coffin supply. This action was taken to be ready to receive patients in or less seriously burned, thousands are destitute and homeless and the property loss will run into many millions of dollars. At least a dozen lions of dollars. At least a dozen cities and towns were destroyed. The worst blazes were at Moose Lake, Kettle river and Cloquet. In Moose Lake and immediate vicinity it is estimated more than 300 jersons perished in the flames. Between 300 and 400 coffins have been ordered sent to this town alone.
Although countless small fires were

burning throughout the district toda; down considerably during the night, a revival of the seventy-mile-an-hour gale of Saturday would bring further horrors and add greatly to the tragedy.

Enemy Agents Suspected.

yard when the fires in Duluth and Superior were burning at their height, according to F. J. Longran, fire marshal, and other city and state efficials. Duluth and Superior are in no further danger. Virginia is safe, and Brainerd was untouched. However, peat bog fires now are said to menace the latter city. Bexmidji reported only a small loss.

A special train of twenty coaches brought 1,500 refugees to Cloquet and Carleton. They confirmed reports that many persons lost their lives in those towns.

Policeman's Tragic Story.

Albert Michaud, a special policeman, told a tragic story of the burning of Cloquet, and of the mad rush of its

BY A HUN PAPER

Cloquet, and of the mad rosh of its residents to escape.

"At 6 o'clock Saturday night a forest ranger gave warning that unless the wind died down the townspeople would have to fiee." said Michaud. "A thick pall of smoke hung over the town, and at 7 o'clock the special trains were called.

"The scene at the station was indescribable. There came a rush of wind, and the entire town was in flames. The trains pulled out with the

PARIS, October 14.—In commenting on the German peace proposals, the government which assumes to act for the German people.

The latest note did not make it plain that the "constituted authorities of the empire who have so far conducted the war" are not still the ruling power in German affairs.

PARIS, October 14.—In commenting on the commenting on the German peace proposals, the Volks Zeitung of Leipzig, Saxony, is quoted in a dispatch from Switzerland as saying:

"In the minds of the German people at the cars. Windows in the coaches were broken by the heat. The engineers and firemen alternately stoked to give the boilers all the fuel they could stand.

President Wilson's estimate of those constituted authorities was expressed in a speech September 27, as follows:

"We see in William II the last German military monarch. He must feel be no peace obtained by any kind of bargain or compromise with the governments of the central empires, because we have dealt with them already and shows all the chief of the central empires, because we have dealt with them already and shows all the chief of the central empires.

"Other trains were nurriedly: made dent wisson take in hand the restoration of flat cars, box cars and anything tion of peace was received at the get away. There are many dead in that would roll. Even then all did not get away. There are many dead in that would roll. Even then all did not get away. There are many dead in that would roll. Even then all did not get away. There are many dead in that would roll. Cloquet."

Cloquet was a town with about 7,500 persons those reign—an instrument sent by God, and shows all the chief of the many dead in the communication as it reached the population. More than 4,700 persons were brought to Duluth and Superior where all one of flat cars, box cars and anything tion of peace was received at the get away. There are many dead in the town with about 7,500 persons were brought to Duluth and Superior of foreign asking of the many dead in the town with about 7,500 persons were brought to Duluth and Superior of foreign asking of the care of flat cars, box cars and anything tion of peace was received at the state of flat cars, box cars and anything tion of peace was received at the communication as treached the get away. There are many dead in the trains were nurriedly made of flat cars, box cars and anything tion of peace was received at the communication as the communication of flat cars, box cars and anything tion of peace was received at the communication as the communication of flat cars, box cars and anything tion of peace was received of flat cars, box cars and anything tion of peace was received at the communication as

How About It?

You CAN buy a Liberty Bond!

This is only \$5 a month on a \$50 bond and \$10

you a bond on this basis.

And the banks are keeping open until 9 o'clock

How about it?

DISTRICT LIBERTY LOAN COMMITTEE.

Campaign in City's History.

Washington is today entering upo the greatest selling crusade in its history, that it may be successful in salsing the \$27,600,000 asked of it by the

According to complete tabulated figures furnished by all but half a are destitute and homeless and the dozen of the smaller banks, the city's total liberty loan subscription at 10 which leaves more than \$11,700,000 to be raised between now and Saturday night, the time set for the closing of

Pledges Not Yet "Cleared."

In announcing the official total today the local loan committee said several pledges for very large amounts have been made, but have not yet beer cleared through any bank, making it impossible to credit them to the offi-Reports that the holocaust resulted cial total. It is further explained Reports that the holocaust resulted cial total. It is further explained from the work of enemy agents were circulated here. Definite confirmation was not available, but incendiaries were driven away from a local shipyard when the fires in Duluth and Suvard when the fires in Duluth campaign ends.

feat the efforts to obtain Washington's quota in the allotted time, although only a little over one-half of the required amount has been raised according to the committee managing This, the final week, will be an

active one. The committee has no idea of letting matters lag because (Continued on Second Page.)

RECEIVED FROM TURKEY

Turkey's long-delayed note asking, like Germany and Austria, that Presi-"Other trains: were hurriedly: made dent Wilson take in hand the restora-

We are all agreed that there can be not peace obtained by any kind of the control experience of

10 per cent cash and 10 per cent a month will

a month on a \$100.

Any bank in Washington will be glad to sell

tonight for your convenience.

Washington Today Enters President's Decision, Soon railroad did they encounter any real resistance. Upon Greatest Bond-Selling Forthcoming, Will Satisfy American People's Desires.

perous business and farming country \$15,895,000 NOW PLEDGED REPLY FRAMED TODAY

BY DAVID LAWRENCE. (Copyright, 1918, by the New York Evening during the past couple of days. At no Post, Inc.) President Wilson today framed a re-

ply to Germany that means the ces- and Friday of last week. The President talked over the situation with Secretaries Lansing Baker other advisers. It was distinctly a

grams from abroad dealing with the military and political situation.

Decision Soon to Come. isfy the wishes of the American people. Indeed, there is a recognition in executive quarters of the fact that American public calculations and the fact that American public opinion, while anxious for an honorable peace, is not yet ready to sit down to discuss guarantees with the present imperial government, whose word has proved so faithless in the past.

The key to the situation is to be

subsequent addresses." Here are the two paragraphs which Germany means by her answer that she is ready to put into effect or all the promises she has just made are as worthless and his effect of into captivity by the Germans before the French troops arrived. she has just made are as worthless as her previous pledges On the 4th of July last at Mount Vernon President Wilson said that among the ends "for which the associated peoples of the world are fighting, and which must be conceded them before there can be peace," is this:

Key Paragraphs Quoted.

"The destruction of every arbitrary power anywhere that can separately, secretly, and of its single choice dis-turb the peace of the world; or, if it be presently destroyed, at the least its reduction to virtual impotence."

Later on in the address of September 27 in New York, which Germany now says she specifically accepts or implies an affirmative answer, is the following question as one of the issues of the war:

"Shall peoples be ruled and dominated, even in their own internal affairs, by arbitrary irresponsible force." fairs, by arbitrary, irresponsible force or by their own will and choice?"
Germany has said "yes" to these questions by saying that she affirms all that Mr. Wilson has expressed in his address of January 8 and subsection of the saddress of January 8 and subsections of January

NEW FURIOUS BLOW IN FLANDERS MAY BE FOCH MASTER MOVE

British, French and Belgians in Surprise Attack Near Comines.

GO OVER THE TOP WITHOUT WARNING BOMBARDMENT

WITH THE ALLIED ARMIES IN FLANDERS, October 14 (by the Associated Press), 1:30 a.m.—British, Belgian and French forces attacked at dawn this morning on a wide front in Flanders. The allied troops are driving in the general direction of Ghent and Courtrai.

The attack seems to be general from Comines to the northward. The troops of the three nations went over the top after a "crash" bombardment only. There was no preliminary bombardment. It undoubtedly tactically surprised the enemy.

In the British formations were some of Great Britain's best troops and the forces of the French were of famous fighting organizations. The Germans appear perhaps prepared to retire to the Ghent line.

By the fury with which the attack was launched it is evident that the fighting armies are not paying the slightest attention to the "peace talk." They smashed forward with all the dash characterizing the recent operations.

German forces have abandoned Laon and the whole St. Gobain region. The French, after reoccupying Laon, have pressed on until their line now runs from the Oise river above La Fere to the eastern end of Chemin des Dames.

When the Germans began to fall back out of the bag into which they were being slowly caught by the rapid advance of the allies on each side they went with such speed that the change in the battle line in that section of the front during a few hours was astonishing. Not until the French reached the Laon-La Fere

Italians Participate. them up for some time Italian troops participated in the advance, and are now engaged on the Route of Hunding Line. hills north of the Ailette river. At The Hunding line runs from Antwerp

this point the German lines have been o Ghent and thence to Tournai, Conde pressed back or have been withdrawn Valenciennes, Solesmes, Guise, Rethel, Vouziers, Dun-sur-Meuse and then down so that a sharp angle has been created. with the exception of the area north of Dousi, there appears to have been running through Lorraine and the Vosges

farther south, were within four miles ply to Germany that means the ces-sation of hostilities only if Germany is prepared to rid herself completely have reached what is known as the of her autocratic power—the Hohenzollern dynasty or any other group of
militarists who might otherwise disturb anew the peace of the world.

The project of the might completely have reached what is known as the properties, while, larther east, den. John and has taken Vouziers, but has not penetrated much north of that place. Americans fighting in the Argonne region are through the Kriemhild line, but system, is still strong enough to retard their progress there is very slow.

and Daniels and Col. House and received communications from many Laon's Folk in Joyous Tears morning in which the President took counsel carefully and read the cable-

tears running down their cheeks and The key to the situation is to be found in the acceptance by Germany of the terms set forth by President Wilson in his address of January 8 to the American Congress "and his subsequent address of "Yes" and his himself and 600 young men had been himself and 600 young men had been

> Flag Flies on Cathedral. Gen. Mangin's forces had reached the Laon-La Fere railway at 10:45 a.m. and a quarter of an hour later

> the French tricolor was floating from the tower of the Laon Cathedral. About at the same hour the last Ger-mans had been chased from the forest of St. Gobain, which for four years had been one of the strongest bastions

WITH THE FRENCH ARMY IN and arriving before the enemy's sec-ondary position. At Marchais 2,000 THE LAON AREA, October 14 (by the inhabitants of that town greeted their The decision of the President will Associated Press).—In a literal transdeliverers with joyfulness equal to that of the people of Laon. They promade I am informed by some of the maining in Laon rushed to the gates of the city yesterday afternoon to what he has in mind that town greeted their deliverers with joyfulness equal to that of the people of Laon. They produced a notice left by the Germans on retiring to the effect that the French authorities would have until October what he has in mind that it will sat- greet Gen. Mangin, who made his after which the town would be

Advance Made Difficult

vance of the French troops was extra-ordinary, considering the difficulties that had to be overcome. All the roads had been blown up by mines at many places. The villages either were mined or burned and great depths of wire had to be broken through. On the front of Gen. Gouraud's troops the reconquered villages, although remaining intact, have been found to be mined.

The Germans are defending stoically all the passages of the River Aisne, all the bridges having been destroyed.

The French 5th Army has continued its forward movement, liberating the villages of Sterme, Sutre-Ramecourt and Montaigu, and reaching the enemy's secondary defense line before Sissonne.

Sissonne.

Farther to the east both the French infantry and artillery have crossed the had been one of the strongest bastions of the enemy's line.

Pursuing their advance with heightened ardor in the joy of having delivered Laon. Gen. Mangin's troops went on several miles north of the city, liberating a number of villages Aisne at Vieux-les-Asfeld and Anfeld-la-Ville.

Laon's Fall Is Prologue to Liberation of France

PARIS, October 14.-Still another | It was on the Laon plateau that the